

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

3003 Moorpark Avenue
San Jose, California 95128



April 10, 2003

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

In order to provide you with up-to-date information regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases and other public health issues, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department Information Office will issue Public Health Updates to notify you of any new developments. The following reflects the status of suspect SARS cases in Santa Clara County and information regarding the county's bacterial meningitis case.

SARS

- The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) will hold concurrent press conferences April 10th, at 11:30 am (PST) to announce that five suspect SARS cases in the United States have tested positive for the coronavirus. One of these five cases is a resident of Santa Clara County who has fully recovered. The coronavirus is part of a family of viruses that has been linked to SARS. Initial testing was conducted by the CDHS and followed by blood tests conducted by the CDC.
- Members of the media can call into the CDHS press conference at 877.553.8341, passcode 462870.
- Two additional suspect SARS cases have been identified, bringing the total number of suspect cases to 11. Of the 11 cases, four have been determined through lab testing to have alternative diagnoses; three are beyond the potential infectious period and are no longer in isolation; and four remain in home isolation. No suspect case is currently hospitalized.
- Informational materials have been sent to every public and private school in Santa Clara County. Additionally, Public Health Staff has been answering questions from school personnel regarding SARS.
- SARS information has been posted to the Santa Clara County Web site: www.sccphd.org. The Public Health Information Line at 885.3980 is available to answer questions from Santa Clara County residents. For additional information about SARS and travel updates, individuals can visit the CDC's and World Health Organization's Web sites at www.cdc.gov and www.who.int.

MENINGITIS

- The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office has release preliminary findings on the jail inmate with bacterial meningitis. The autopsy found that this individual had a form of bacterial meningitis that is not a highly contagious form of the disease. Therefore, the public health investigation is complete and no further follow-up is required.

Contact Information:

Joy Alexiou	408.885.4164
Teresa Chagoya	408.423.0717